



Dunes Echo

Spring 2022 (March, April and May) ~ Vol. XVI, #1

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

Friends of Indiana Dunes Updates

The Friends of Indiana Dunes are still working hard on our dedicated appeal for the State Park's ADA compliant Beach Mats. A huge thank you to all our members who have generously donated to this effort. Although donations are still being received, we are still short of our overall goal of \$25,000. If you are interested in helping with this extremely important project to make the water's edge accessible to all, please go to dunefriends.org/state-park-beach-mat-project. The Beach Mat project will begin in early May.

Starting on March 31, the Indiana Dunes National Park will now be charging an entrance fee. With the name change in 2019 from Lakeshore to Park, the numbers of visitors has nearly doubled. The new fee revenue will be used specifically to help with deferred maintenance and improvements here at our National Park. There are many ways and locations to purchase passes. For the most accurate information go to nps.gov/indu/learn/news/park-entry-fee-begins-31march2022.htm. The Friends support the entrance fee and understand the concerns associated with this change. Our Executive Board is working with NPS Superintendent Paul Labovitz to discuss ways the Friends may help underserved populations obtain Indiana Dunes National Park Annual passes at a reduced rate.

The Friends are pleased to announce that overnight stays will begin again at the Dunes Learning Center later this Spring for their popular "Frog in the Bog" environmental education program. What a great experience for our school children!

Covid variants remain a challenge for our partners and their planned programs. Changes can occur with little warning. If we have your email address, notices can be sent quickly. Please share your email information with the Friends when you renew your membership or by simply sending it to members@dunefriends.org. Thanks to our email registered members for their help with the recent University of Chicago survey which will provide valuable information on visitor impacts to the National Park.

Friends' Sponsored Special Programs at National and State Parks



Maple Sugar Time at National Park's Chellberg Farm – March 12 and 13 from 10:00am to 4:00pm

Enjoy a sweet taste of spring at Indiana Dunes National Park's 46th Annual Maple Sugar Time. Self-paced tours will guide visitors through the history of maple sugaring. Due to Covid precautions, the farmhouse will not be open to the public but Eastern National will be selling Maple Sugar products from the porch window. The Friends will be offering maple syrup flavored snow cones to children of ages. Admission is free for all activities.

Indiana Master Naturalist Course at State Park – Weekly starting late March or early April through end of May

Discover more about Indiana Dunes' natural resources through hands-on learning by becoming an Indiana Master Naturalist (IMN). This spring course has been organized by our State Park volunteers and is supported by the Friends. The IMN program is a great way to volunteer while enjoying learning with others. For this course there will be eleven expert-led classes focused on Indiana's botany, insects, water, geology, wildlife, birds and more. To receive IMN certification, students will then need to volunteer an equal amount of time at a natural resources-related agency either federal, state, city, county or non-profit organization. For details on cost of IMN course, the specific dates and how to pre-register, please call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 or email mlaudeman@dnr.in.gov. Class size is limited to 18 adults. Learn more about the Indiana Master Naturalist program at www.IndianaMasterNaturalist.org.



8th Annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival – Thursday, May 12 through Sunday, May 15

This annual festival showcases the abundance of migratory birds in the Indiana Dunes and offers countless walks, hikes, talks and programs. The festival is headquartered at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center in Porter. Visit the official website at www.indunesbirdingfestival.com for information on how to register. There is a fee to participate in this special event.

Indiana Dunes State Park Beach Cleanup – Sunday, May 29 from 8:00am to 10:00am

The Friends will again partner with Crazy Legs Race Series to sponsor beach cleanups at the State Park. Meet at Friends' tent on east side of the Pavilion. Bring your own gloves and water bottle. Trash buckets and drinking water will be supplied. Mark Your Calendars: Summer State Park Beach Cleanup dates - June 12, July 24 and August 28.



26th Annual Native Plant Sale – April 23, 2022

This year the Native Plant Sale will be held at the Friends' House/Office located on the northwest corner of Mineral Springs and Oak Hill roads (1000 W. Oak Hill Road) in Porter, IN (GPS coordinates 41.629814 – 87.087099). This will also be the location for pickup of Pre-Sale plant orders. Please park in the Indiana Dunes National Park's Headquarters' Complex which is directly to the north off Mineral Springs Road and then walk the short trail back to the Friends' location.



Pre-sale order forms will be mailed to all who purchased plants in the past three years and are also available to print at the Friends website (www.dunefriends.org) or from our Facebook page. Pre-ordering of native plants is strongly encouraged as every year, on the day of the sale, some native plant varieties will be unavailable due to their popularity during the order period. Pre-sale orders must be received by April 9, 2022.

Volunteer help is always needed for set-up of plants and pre-sale order filling on Friday, April 22 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. On April 23, the day of sale, help will be needed from 7:30am until 1:30pm. Interested in helping, please contact Friends' Chair Angel Gochee-Goins at angel@dunefriends.org with your available times.

Get ready for the Native Plant Sale by attending one or both 90-minute **Native Plant Talks** at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center on Saturday, April 16. Join regional botanists for these presentations on Indiana Dunes flora and how to minimize our impact where we live. Nathaniel Pilla will speak at 10:00am while Steve Sass will speak at 1:00pm. Attendees may submit a pre-sale order form at these talks.

Snowshoeing the Dunes – weather permitting (need a 6-inch snow base)

The State Park Nature Center will continue to offer Snowshoe rentals for all ages on every Wednesday through Sunday in March (weather permitting) from 10:00am until 3:00pm. A driver's license is required for the rental and the cost is \$5 per pair for the entire day. Reservations cannot be made. Call 219-926-1390 for questions on the snow conditions.

Snowshoes provided by Friends of Indiana Dunes



Dunes Learning Center Programs

For more information, please go to: <https://duneslearningcenter.org>

Dunes Learning Center offers a variety of community programs for adults. This spring, we will continue to offer some virtual programs while also returning to in-person, outdoor programs. More programs are being planned. Please visit DunesLearningCenter.org/programs to register for the below programs and for more details on additional programs.



Wonder Women of the Dunes - Wednesday, March 30 from 6:30pm until 8:00pm

Join Dunes Learning Center for the next installment of Wonder Women of the Dunes. Speaker Joe Gruzalski will share new research about notable women of the Dunes – some you may know, some you may not!

Forest Bathing - Saturday, May 7 at a time not yet determined

Practice the Japanese art of "forest bathing" - experiencing the natural world with all your senses. Explore around Dunes Learning Center as you practice mindfulness in nature on this special guided hike. You may want to bring a journal to record the experience during the reflection time. Facilitated by Cynthia Smith, a yoga and meditation instructor.

Many schools will be visiting Dunes Learning Center this spring for "Frog in the Bog" – our flagship program. As the weather warms, we look forward to having schools return for multi-day trips, as well as sleeping in the cabins!

Dunes Summer Camp registration is in full swing! We are planning for full capacity summer camp, including both overnight and day camp options. **Chellberg Farm Day Camp** is a great introduction to the Dunes for the youngest campers, ages 5-8. Kids ages 9-13 will love **Dunes Discovery** overnight camp, this year being offered over four separate weeks. For teens ages 14-17, **Dunes Adventure Camp** promises both fun and a chance to develop leadership skills.



This year, the summer theme is Herpetology, and campers will meet many amphibians and reptiles that live here in Indiana Dunes National Park. Registration and more details about the Summer Camps can be found online: DunesLearningCenter.org/summer.



State Park Programs

For more information contact Nature Center at 219-926-1390 or www.interpretiveservices.in.gov



Running with the Irish 5K Race - March 14

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day weekend by joining St. Patrick School's 22nd annual pre-spring event! Hundreds of people will enjoy a relaxing walk or invigorating run on the Dunes State Park's roads with glimpses of beautiful Lake Michigan. For more information or to register please visit: www.runsignup.com/irish5k



Full Moon Hike - Saturday, March 18 at 7:30pm

Enjoy the beautiful full moon and night sky on this special night hike from the Nature Center to Lake Michigan and back. Stories about our moon, up-close views, and "stellar" treats will be shared thanks to the Friends.

Walk and Talk with the Timberdoodles - Coming in April and May

Join us for a fun evening program to learn all about the plump little shorebirds called - bogsuckers or Timberdoodles or woodcocks. Unlike their coastal relatives, these birds inhabit young forests, our foredunes, and old fields. From the east side of the park's pavilion, we will quietly head out on a 1-mile moderate hike together in search of these beautifully camouflaged birds. Call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 for actual program dates and with any questions you may have.



Lunar Eclipse Party - May 15 from 9:00pm to Midnight

Join State Park naturalists and volunteers at the State Park's Beach for an evening of watching our moon turn blood red. Telescopes and constellation talks will be available throughout the evening. Note: This program is weather dependent.

To see complete list and dates for other 2022 park programs please go to www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Nature Center Hours: Every day from 9:30am to 3:30pm CST. Closed on state holidays.

National Park Programs

For more information contact Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center at 219-395-1882 or www.nps.gov/indu



Bailly/Chellberg History Hike – Saturday, March 19, March 26, and April 2 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Sunday, May 29 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm Meet at the Chellberg Farm and explore the grounds of both historic homes. Learn about the early settlers and farmers who came to this region in the 1800s.

Miller Woods Hike – Sunday, March 20, March 27, and every Sunday in April and May from 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Meet at the Douglas Center for a ranger-led hike through Miller Woods to the shore of Lake Michigan. This amazing hike goes through a globally rare black oak savannah and around towering sand dunes and interdunal wetlands.

Art in the National Park – Saturday, April 9 and May 14 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Meet at the Chellberg Farm's Nelson House to learn how to paint with local artists. April's dune theme is plants while May's will be birds. Register as www.artbarnschool.org. A canvas and paints will be provided for the class. Class size limited to 15 adults.



Earth Day: Chellberg Farm Gardening – Saturday, April 16 from 9:00am to Noon

Join staff and fellow volunteers help care for your local national park. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided as we help get the Chellberg Farm garden off to a great start.

Mother's Day Wildflower Hike – Sunday, May 8 from 10:00am to 11:30am and from 1:00pm to 2:30pm

Join a ranger at the Heron Rookery for a hike in the best location to see what Spring wildflowers are blooming.

Lake Michigan Boat Tours – Friday, May 27 from 10:00am to 11:30am and 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Saturday, May 28 from 10:00am to 11:30am and 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Sunday, May 29 from 10:00am to 11:30am and Monday, May 29 from 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Join a ranger for a guided 90-minute boat tour on Lake Michigan with Harbor Country Adventures. There is a fee and reservations are required for the boat tours. Go to harborcountryadventures.com for more information.



Pinhook Bog Open House – Saturday, May 28 from 9:00am until Noon

Take an hour-long self-guided hike into Indiana's only quaking bog. Ranger and volunteers will be stationed along the bog trail to help you understand this unique place filled with carnivorous plants.

**FRIENDS OF
INDIANA DUNES**

P.O. Box 166
Beverly Shores, IN 46301

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Our mission is to enhance and foster understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the Indiana Dunes through financial and volunteer support of the state and national parks.

Friends Board Members

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Vice-Chair: Paul Stofko **Treasurer:** Tracey Stevens
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Bonnie Miller Rudy Moyado Zella Olson Marti Pizzini
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Newsletter Editor: Cliff Goins
www.dunefriends.org 219-707-3617

Since 1982, our organization has supported the interpretive and resource management programs of the Indiana Dunes. The Friends sponsor the kind of interpretive programs that make a visit to the Indiana Dunes informative and fun. Membership in the Friends is vital to creating this positive impact.

Please support the Indiana Dunes by joining the Friends today. Your financial contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Your support will make a difference and assure our important work continues.

Current Friends Members will receive a renewal form in the mail when your renewal is due.

Friends Membership Application

P. O. Box 166 ~ Beverly Shores, IN 46301-0166

- Senior Citizen \$ 15
- Individual/Family \$ 20
- Sustaining Family \$ 40
- Business/Corporation \$100

Mail completed form to the address above.

Additional Contribution \$ _____

Interested in Volunteering _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____